

## Preparedness Activities for Vulnerable Children

During pandemic planning efforts, emergency planners in Arizona prioritized Child Protective Services as an essential department and conducted a variety of preparedness activities to ensure that it could meet the needs of allegedly abused and neglected children. Preparedness activities included cross-training staff, identifying options for holding hearings and family visits while maintaining social distancing, and planning for alternate handling of hotline calls. During H1N1, many of these plans were put into action as staff held court hearings by phone and supervisors took on additional duties to ensure that services were provided in children's best interest.

## Radiation Emergencies

By mapping residences, using full-scale exercises, and staying in frequent contact, Arizona officials have streamlined their efforts to quickly locate, evacuate, and decontaminate vulnerable people living within 5, 10, 15, and 50 miles of the nation's largest nuclear generating plants.

## Disability and Health Data System

CDC introduces an online interactive system that helps quickly translate state-level, disability-specific data into information that can be used by state health departments, national disability and health organizations, and policymakers. With Disability and Health Data System (DHDS), users can customize how they view disability and health data throughout the country, making it easy to understand health disparity information, identify trends, and support the development of fiscally-responsible, evidence-based programs, services and policies.

## MI Volunteer Registry Upgrade

Please click [HERE](#) for a 2 hour 21 minute virtual overview of the entire system. Please note that WebEx is needed to review the training, and it may initially take up to 45 seconds to load. Announcements will be sent to all volunteers. For any administrators that have questions or comments about the new site, please contact Susan Puls at PulsS@michigan.gov or 517-335-9586.

## Tools & Resources

### New Eagle Book Toolkit Available for Tribal Audiences

The new Eagle Books Toolkit offers useful tips and ideas on how to conduct community health fairs and other wellness events for tribal audiences. Inspired by the wisdom of traditional ways of health in tribal communities, Eagle Books stories for young children feature a wise eagle, a grateful rabbit, a clever coyote, and four young friends who explore the benefits of being physically active and eating healthy foods, seeking the wisdom of elders regarding healthy living, and learning to prevent type 2 diabetes in Indian Country.

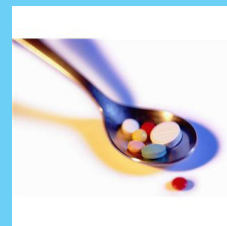


### Partnering with Paramedics to Provide Flu Vaccine

Oregon's "Taking H1N1 Vaccination to Vulnerable Populations" pilot project utilized nontraditional vaccinators, specifically paramedics affiliated with local ambulance services, as a strategy to improve influenza vaccination rates among homebound seniors and people with disabilities. Collaboration between local health departments, community-based organizations, and emergency medical service agencies provided flu vaccine to homebound individuals during a five-county pilot project in Oregon.

### Banks Collaborate to Dispense Antivirals

Planners in two Utah counties tested the ability to distribute antibiotics or antivirals to large numbers of people via bank drive-thru lanes. A large-scale public information campaign drew nearly 5,000 members of the public, who used cash-handling tubes to send their participant information forms and receive "medications"



### **Guidelines for Developing Emergency Simulations and Drills**

Pan American Health Organization, Dec 2011. [Information](#) provided by the Disaster Information Management Research Center, National Library of Medicine.

### **A Tool to Help State Developmental Disability Officials Assess their Emergency Plans**

The [online assessment tool](#) from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services is based on an extensive review of emergency planning and disaster response plans, as well as materials from state developmental disabilities programs nationwide. Its web-based collection of resources can be organized by: 1)Activity: preparing, responding, recovering, 2)Operational level: individual, service provider, local/county/state agency, and 3)Content area: sheltering, evacuation, and workforce.

### **Family Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities**

Two Florida agencies assisted families in preparing for a variety of emergencies. [The guide](#) provides general instructions for creating segments of a family emergency plan, including guidelines for communicating, keeping pets safe, and building a disaster supply kit.

## **Training & Events**

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

#### **Public Information Training**

**June 12-13, 2012**

**Ann Arbor, MI**

**Peter Sandman**

**Media Survival Group**

Sponsored by the Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP), this training is for Public Information Officers from the public health, hospital and emergency management communities. Detailed conference information will be forthcoming in future issues of the Guardian of Public Health.

### **Webinar: Presentation on Food Fraud**

**Date: March 2, 2012, 11:00 am (eastern)**

**Presented by the National Center on Food Protection & Defense**

Economically motivated adulteration (or food fraud) refers to the intentional contamination of food for financial advantage, and does not typically result in harm to consumers. Melamine contamination of both wheat gluten and dairy products are two recent examples of events that had unintended public health consequences. Click [Here](#) to Register

### **Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI) 8th Annual Conference**

**April 24, 2012, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm**

**Plymouth, MI**

The GLBHI Annual Conference offers a unique opportunity to engage with international colleagues in infectious disease prevention and control along the Canada-U.S. border. Invitations to the Conference are extended to local, state/provincial, Tribal/First Nation and federal stakeholders from Ontario and the Great Lakes states working in the areas of public health, clinical health, laboratories, food protection, and emergency management. Also invited are professionals from throughout Canada, Mexico, and the United States who want to learn more about cross-border public health initiatives. GLBHI Steering Committee and primary Subcommittees will be meeting the afternoon of April 23. Additionally, GLBHI will be co-hosting a food/feed emergency response exercise on April 23. Detailed information about the Conference is accessible on the GLBHI website at [www.michigan.gov/borderhealth](http://www.michigan.gov/borderhealth).

## **Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders in Biosecurity**

The Center for Biosecurity University of Pittsburgh Medical Center recently launched a project to identify and develop a new generation of leaders in the biosecurity field. The Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Initiative is a competitive program designed to create and sustain a multidisciplinary community of motivated young professionals with an interest in biosecurity. Each year, the program will select a class of Fellows from government, defense, public health, science, medicine, and the social sciences to participate in a slate of seminars, biosecurity conferences, networking events, writing competitions, and educational webinars. The goal is to cultivate the “best and brightest” next-generation biosecurity professionals who will contribute to the future of the field. Applications for the inaugural 2012 class of Fellows will be accepted until March 15, 2012. Details of the application process can be found on the Initiative’s online.

## **Research**

### **Effects of School Closure on Incidence of Pandemic Influenza in Alberta, Canada**

In the Annals of Internal Medicine, researchers study how school closure affected the transmission of 2009 pandemic influenza H1N1. They utilized a mathematical model on weather data as well as the influenza surveillance data from The Alberta Recording and Research Network (TARRANT) to study how well 2009 pandemic influenza H1N1 was transmitted in school-aged children in Alberta, Canada after school closure. The research showed that school closure reduced the transmission in school-aged children by 50%. The authors conclude that school closure is an effective tool in reducing influenza transmission in school-age children. The full study is available online.

### **Facing up to Flu**

An editorial published in Nature discusses the H5N1 research debate. The authors feel that this research is not as necessary as the production of influenza vaccine. They argue that since influenza vaccine takes six to nine months to create, leaving many vulnerable during a deadly influenza pandemic, that research should be focused in this area. They cite that research into H5N1 detracts from this goal and that scientific research should refocus on vaccine production. The full editorial is available online.

### **The H5N1 Debate Needs Respectful Dialogue, Not “Education” or One-Sided Advocacy**

Peter Sandman, a risk communications expert, weighed in on the H5N1 research controversy. He argues that there is little respectful dialogue between the scientific community, the World Health Organization, and the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity. He says all sides are distracted from the main issue, which is the risk of an H5N1 pandemic. Sandman argues that the controversy got the public talking about H5N1 again, but only in terms of scientific censorship. The full article is available online.

### **Dangerous for ferrets: lethal for humans**

Researchers in BMC Biology published commentary regarding the controversial H5N1 research issue. The authors argue that biosafety is a concern when working with a virus that could possibly be dangerous in humans if released. They cite that using only the highest security labs to study viruses like H5N1 will discourage further research because the restrictions will be too troublesome. The authors conclude that there should be more sharing rather than less. The full commentary is available online.

# Michigan Regional Coalition Update

## Region 6 Completes Successful Conference

More than 200 partners from the Region 6 Coalition, and from agencies in other preparedness districts, gathered Feb. 21 in Grand Rapids for a conference focused on "Violence in Communities."

The event was the latest in a series of annual Region 6 conferences, and included physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, medical social workers, emergency medical technicians, administrative staff, and representatives from school districts. This year's theme focused on continuing trends of violence in communities and how partners can better plan for the direct effects of this trend, and establish a collaborative response. The conference, held at the Calvin College Prince Conference Center, included 12 individual sessions and three keynote speakers.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisor, Mike Moll, delivered the first keynote address and reminded participants that Michigan communities continue to face violence and threats from domestic and foreign groups that are inclined to use firearms, small explosive devices and similar terrorist acts. He specifically referred to a day-long shooting spree in Grand Rapids last year, and the investigation into a suspicious package found at a local hospital.

The second keynote speaker, Grand Rapids Police Chief, Kevin Belk, also referred to the shooting spree and how the police and community responded. Belk took the opportunity to remind attendees that Grand Rapids – which released its annual crime statistics the same day as the conference – has seen a drop in the number of homicides but continues to see a rise in gun violence. Coincidentally, a person was shot and killed outside a Grand Rapids hospital that same morning. The hospital was not affected, and no staff were involved or endangered.

Other sessions focused on simulation education to stress the treatment of gunshots and other penetrating traumatic injuries; pediatric pain control methods; crisis intervention models; medical and law response to a hypothetical meth-lab bust that turned into a hostage situation; and the provision of decontamination during or after violent events.

The event concluded with an address from Grand Rapids-based motivational speaker and comedian Tim Cusack, who talked openly about his experiences as a hospice and Gilda's Club volunteer, and as an observer of the human condition. He blended real-life and comedic stories to remind audience members that they should pause and note the positive events in their lives and to remember that for one to make a difference, he or she must also care for themselves.



### Mailing Address:

Office of Public Health Preparedness  
Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913  
(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>



This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U90/TP517018-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.